

Slide 1: Introduction to Genre

- **Say: My audience is a class of 6th or 7th grade students.**
- **Introduction:**
 - I am going to introduce one of my favorite genres to you.
 - I am going to read this story
 - I want you to listen and see if you recognize
 - The story
 - The genre

(The Egyptian Cinderella)

Long ago in the Ancient land of Egypt where the green water of the Nile River flows into the blue water of the Mediterranean Sea lived a young maiden named Rhodopis. She was born in Greece but had been kidnapped by pirates and carried to Egypt where she was sold into slavery. Her owner was a kind old man and because he spent most of his time sleeping under a tree, he never saw how the other servant girls in the house taunted and teased Rhodopis because she looked different to them. Their hair was straight and black while hers was golden and curly. They had brown eyes and hers were green. Their skin had the glow of copper, but she had pale skin that burnt easily in the sun so they called her Rosy Rhodopis. They made her work hard, shouting at her all day, "Go to the river and wash the clothes. Mend my robe. Chase the geese from the garden. Bake the bread."

She had no human friends only the animals. She trained the birds to eat from her hand, a monkey to sit on her shoulder, and an old hippopotamus would slide up, out of the mud, onto the bank to be closer to her. At the end of each day, if she wasn't too tired, she would go down to the river to be with her animal friends and if she had any energy left from the hard day's work she would sing and dance for them.

One evening as she was dancing, twirling around lighter than air with her feet barely touching the ground, the old man woke from his sleep and watched as she danced. He admired her dancing and decided that one so talented should not be without shoes. He ordered her a special pair of slippers. The shoes were gilded with rose-red gold and the soles were leather. Now the other servant girls could really hate her for they were jealous of her beautiful slippers.

One day, word arrived that the Pharaoh was holding court in Memphis and all in the kingdom were invited. Oh how Rhodopis wanted to go with the other servant girls, for she knew there would be dancing, singing, and lots of wonderful food. As the other servant girls prepared to leave in their finest clothes they turned to her and gave her more chores to be completed before they returned. They poled their raft away leaving a sad girl on the bank. As she began to wash the clothes in the river she sang a sad little song--"wash the linen, weed the garden, grind the grain." The hippopotamus grew tired of this little song and splashed back into the river. The splashing of the water wet her slippers. She quickly grabbed them up, wiped them off and placed them in the sun to dry. As she was continuing with her chores the sky darkened and when she looked up she saw a falcon sweep down, snatch one of her slippers, and fly away. Rhodopis was in awe for she knew it was the god Horus who had taken her shoe. Rhodopis, now with only one slipper, put it away in her tunic.

Now the Pharaoh, Amasis, Pharaoh of upper and lower Egypt was sitting on his throne looking out over the people and feeling very bored. He much preferred to be riding across the desert in his chariot. Suddenly a falcon swooped down and dropped a rose-red golden slipper in his lap. Surprised, but knowing that this was a sign from the god Horus, he sent out a decree that all maidens in Egypt must try on the slipper, and the owner of the slipper would be his queen. By the time the servant girls arrived the celebrations had ended and the Pharaoh had left by chariot in search of the owner of the golden slipper.

After searching on land and not finding the owner he called for his barge and began to travel the Nile pulling into every landing so that maidens could try on the slipper. As the barge rounded the bend in front of the home of Rhodopis everyone heard the sounds of the gong, the trumpets blaring, and saw the purple silk sails. The servant girls ran to the landing to try on the shoe while Rhodopis hid in the rushes. When the servant girls saw the shoe they recognized it as Rhodopis' slipper but they said nothing and still tried to force their feet into the slipper. The Pharaoh spied Rhodopis hiding in the rushes and asked her to try on the slipper. She slid her tiny foot into the slipper and then pulled the other from her tunic. The Pharaoh pronounced that she would be his queen. The servant girls cried out that she was a slave and not even Egyptian. The Pharaoh responded with "She is the most Egyptian of all...for her eyes are as green as the Nile, her fair as feathery as papyrus, and her skin the pink of a lotus flower."

- **Ask: What is this story?**
- **Tell: This Ancient Egyptian version of Cinderella is considered the oldest version of the story, recorded by the Roman historian Strabo in the first century BC.**
- **Ask: What is the Genre?**
 - **Click for the next slide to come up.**

Slide 2: Fairytales

- Say: We are talking about Fairytales.

Slide 3: How does this version compare...

- Say: The Egyptian Cinderella and the version we are familiar with have some common elements and differences.
- Read slide
 - How does this version of Cinderella compare to the one you know.
- Discuss briefly before moving to slide 4.
 - See chart below for info.

- **Discussion: How does this compare to Cinderella that we know.**

	Egyptian Cinderella	Cinderella we know
Setting (Time & Place)	Long ago... in the Ancient land of Egypt were the green water of the Nile River flows into the blue water of the Mediterranean Sea	Once upon a time... in a kingdom far far away...
Main Character	Rhodopis Slave—sold to an owner by pirates who had kidnapped her Kind hearted, gentle, friends with animals	Cinderella Servant—the wicked stepmother and stepsisters made her do the work Kind hearted, gentle, friends with animals
Other characters that oppose Cinderella	Other servant girls cruel	Stepmother and stepsisters Cruel
Goal	To attend the court and enjoy dancing, singing, and food To meet/marry the prince	To attend the ball To meet/marry the prince
Problem	The servants give her extra chores to do so she can't go to the ball	Stepmother and stepsisters give Cinderella so much work she doesn't have time to get ready for the ball
Who helps	The Falcon (the god Horus)	Fairy Godmother
How (magic)	Takes one of Rhodopis' slippers and drops it in the lap of Pharaoh Amasis	She magically changes: -Cinderella's rags into a beautiful dress and glass slippers -pumpkin into a coach -animals into coachman and footman
Transportation for those attending the court/ball	Raft	Coach
Meeting the Pharaoh/Prince	She doesn't attend the festivities The Pharaoh finds her hiding in the bushes when he is looking for the owner of the slipper The other girls try to prevent her from trying it on even though they recognize it as her shoe	She does attend the ball and dances with the prince She loses her glass slipper when rushing from the ball at midnight The other girls try to prevent her from trying it on but they don't know it is her slipper
End	Marry Pharaoh	Marry Prince

- **THERE ARE MANY OTHER SIMILARITIES.**

Slide 4: Characteristics of Fairytales

(Chart)

- Say: All fairytales have these common characteristics.
- Go over chart.
- Read/Discuss Egyptian Cinderella/Cinderella with each characteristic.
- Say: Notice that fairytales do not have to have fairies.

Slide 5: What fairytales do you remember from your childhood?

- Say:
 - I loved fairytales as a child.
 - I watched the Disney movies.
 - I still love fairytales.
- Ask: What fairytales do you remember from your childhood?
- Get responses from students before changing to slide 6.

Slide 6: List of Fairytales

- Say:
 - Here are some fairytales I found.
 - You will probably recognize some.
 - There are many other fairytales not on this list.

Slide 7: Where did fairytales come from?

- Ask: Where did fairytales come from?

Slide 8: Fairytales Came From...

- Read the slide

Slide 9: Fairytales Came From...

- Read slide

Slide 10: Example: “Cinderella”

- Read slide

Slide 11: Fairytales Came From... (w/map picture)

- Read slide
 - Emphasize: The different parts of the world and that they aren't necessarily close to each other.
 - Say: Look how far apart some of these places are.

Slide 12: Two Theories

- Read slide
 - Say: (Compare Egyptian Cinderella and American Cinderella)
 - Ancient Egyptian Cinderella story could have spread to France, which is where the story that we know was written down.
 - OR
 - People in Egypt and people in France had similar experiences of being treated poorly by others, but still hoping for a better life.

Slide 13: Who wrote down the fairytales?

- There were many people who wrote down fairytales.
- We will talk about some of the more famous people.
- Read slide

Slide 14: Who wrote down the fairytales?

- Read slide
- Hold up: Brothers Grimm book of Fairytales from NLL
 - If you want to find the original Brothers Grimm fairytales, there are books available.
- Hold up: Disney's Snow White movie case

Slide 15: Who wrote down the fairytales?

- Read slide
- Hold up these originals:
 - "The Ugly Duckling"
 - "Thumbelina"
 - *Ever*
 - *The Wish*

Slide 16: Who were fairytales for?

- Read slide
- The Brothers Grimm version of Cinderella
 - Say:
 - It is gory.
 - Grimm: mother makes her two daughters cut off toe/heel to make the shoe fit
 - Read:

The front of her foot went in, but her heel was too large, so she took the knife and cut part of it off, so she could force her foot into the slipper. Then she went out to the prince, and when he saw that she was wearing the slipper, he said that she was to be his bride. He escorted her to his carriage and was going to drive away with her. When he arrived at the gate, the two pigeons were perched above, and they called out:

*Rook di goo, rook di goo!
There's blood in the shoe.
The shoe is too tight,
This bride is not right!*

The prince bent over and looked at the slipper. Blood was streaming from it. He saw that he had been deceived, and he took the false bride back.

- At the end of the story, the stepsisters get their eyes pecked out by birds.

Slide 17: Who were fairytales for?

- Read slide

Slide 18: Fairytales Today

- Read slide
- Say in fractured fairytales part:
 - Ella Enchanted is an example of a fractured fairytale book for teens that has also become a movie.

Slide 19: Elements of Fractured Fairytales

- Read slide
- Say: We are going to talk about a few Cinderella fractured fairytales.

Slide 20: A Fractured Fairytale—*Cinder Edna*

- Say: Cinder Edna is a version of Cinderella that adds another similar character.
 - Let me introduce you to the two characters (then read)
- Read the first 2 pages from the book to introduce Cinderella and Cinder Edna.
 - “Once upon a time there were two girls who lived next door to each other. You may have heard of the first one. Her name was Cinderella. Poor Cinderella was forced to work from morning till night, cooking and scrubbing pots and pans and picking up after her cruel stepmother and wicked stepsisters. When her work was done, she sat among the cinders to keep warm, thinking about all her troubles.

Cinder Edna, the other girl, was also forced to work for her wicked stepmother and stepsisters. But she sang and whistled while she worked. Moreover, she had learned a thing or two from doing all that housework—such as how to make tuna casserole sixteen different ways and how to get spots off everything from rugs to ladybugs.”

- Say: Notice that Cinderella and Cinder Edna have different attitudes.
 - Cinder Edna does something about her bad situation.
 - Cinderella just mopes and complains.
- Say: You’ll have to read the book to see how these attitudes and actions affect their lives.

Slide 21: A Fractured Fairytale—*Cinderellis and the Glass Hill*

- Say: This is a twist on Cinderella because: read slide

Slide 22:A Fractured Fairytale—*Before Midnight*

- Say: This is a twist on Cinderella because: read slide

Slide 23: Other Fractured Fairytales

- Cinderella is not the only fairytale. Let’s look at a few other fairytales.

Slide 24: Other Fractured Fairytales—*Snow White*

- You might enjoy *Fairest* by Gail Carson Levine.
 - It is based on the story of Snow White.
 - It is not a dark retelling of the story, like so many versions are.
 - If you enjoy Snow White, you might be interested to know that the movie Snow White and the Huntsman, a dark retelling, will be released June 2012.

Slide 25: Other Fractured Fairytales—*Mulan*

- Say: Poem composed in the 5th or 6th Century A.D.
- Say: This is an excerpt from the poem, not the whole thing.

Tsiek tsiek and again tsiek tsiek,
Mulan weaves, facing the door.
You don't hear the shuttle's sound,
You only hear Daughter's sighs.
They ask Daughter who's in her heart,
They ask Daughter who's on her mind.
"No one is on Daughter's heart,
No one is on Daughter's mind.
Last night I saw the draft posters,
The Khan is calling many troops,
The army list is in twelve scrolls,
On every scroll there's Father's name.
Father has no grown-up son,
Mulan has no elder brother.
I want to buy a saddle and horse,
And serve in the army in Father's place."

- The poem continues with a story similar to the story we are familiar with in Disney's *Mulan*, without the romance.
- You probably recognize the Disney's *Mulan* is based off of this ballad.
- A book based on the "Ballad of *Mulan*" is *Wild Orchid: A retelling of the Ballad of Mulan* by Cameron Dokey which is part of the "Once Upon a Time" series of fairytales rewritten for teens.
 - This book has some different twists than the Disney movie that involve:
 - A stepmother
 - People in the military knowing who she is
 - A prince
 - You'll have to read the book to find out the details.

Slide 26: Other Fractred Fairytales—*The Six Swans*

- The Six Swans by the Brothers Grimm is not as well known.
- Let me read an excerpt from this fairytale to introduce you to the story:
-

"It was on the last day of the six years during which she was not to speak or laugh if she hoped to free her brothers from enchantment, that her own sentence was to be carried out. Five of the six shirts were done, but the last and littlest was still missing its left sleeve. As they led her to the stake and the fire was about to be lit, she looked up and saw six swans flying through the sky. Her heart leapt with joy at the sight of them. The swans touched the ground before her and with lowered necks walked forward. Quickly she threw the shirts over each of them. At once their swans' skins fell off and there, once again, stood her own brothers, strong and handsome. Only the youngest and the littlest lacked a left arm, and in its place there remained a swan's wing. "

--The Six Swans by The Brothers Grimm

- Rafe Martin extends this tale in his book *Birdwing*.
- Say: It tells of the adventures of the youngest boy who still has one wing and is
 - unlike most of the others we have discussed because the hero is boy.

Slide 27: Fairytales

- Say: I hope you can enjoy fairytales now as much as you did as a child.
- Say: There are lots of fairytales written for your age.
 - I have a list of some of them that I have posted.
 - Includes:
 - Title
 - Author
 - Fairytale based on
 - Reading level
 - If you look you will find many more.

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